



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 4th October 2024

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)  
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister Thwaites](#) | [Department](#)  
| [Vaccines](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Population Health](#)  
| [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) | [Primary Care](#)  
| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)  
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)  
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#)  
| [Health Systems Strategies](#) | [Sport](#) | [Health Economics and Research](#) |  
[First Nations Health](#) | [Interim Australian CDC](#) | [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#)  
| [Office of Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#) | [AICIS](#)

## LINKS

[Click here to view full print articles in this report](#)

[Click here to view front pages of today's newspapers](#)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (page 6) reports just 23 per cent of for-profit and 44 per cent of not-for-profit aged care providers met new mandatory targets for total minutes of care in the quarter to June.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports Queensland's Minister for Sport Michael Healy will today announce a pledge of \$25 million for a new Queensland Academy of Sport facility in Cairns. *Also reported by:* [Cairns Post](#)
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 6) reports Monash University researchers are trialling a drug they say could inhibit or even partially reverse the effects of frontotemporal dementia.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 15) reports NSW Health is urging at-risk communities to vaccinate against mpox as the state faces its largest outbreak in two years. *Also reported by:* [NEWS.com.au](#), [9News](#)
- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (online) reports some 70 per cent of Australian women do not believe they have enough education about contraception, according to the national Contraceptive Choice 2024 survey released by Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney. *Also reported by:* [Herald Sun](#), [Women's Agenda](#)

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Two more medicos

Border Watch, General News, 04/10/2024, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

Two new general practitioners will be welcomed to the Mount Gambier Medicare Urgent Care Clinic. It comes following the clinic struggling to keep its doors open for its expected hours, often closing early or even for the day. [...] The federal Department of Health and Aged Care was aware of a "small number" of temporary closures since opening, however Health Minister Mark Butler said the clinic had been a "great success".

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### Epic journey a tribute to loved ones Community

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 04/10/2024, Anthony Brady, Page 3

Like Superman, Joey Kenna is using his super powers for good. He will be among a group of 21 Warrnambool and district men who will undertake a monumental road trip later this month. The group will run from Adelaide to Terang, via Mildura, to raise awareness for Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease. [...] The run will begin at Federal Minister for Health and Aging Mark Butler's office in Adelaide on October 12.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### Tara lost her teeth 'one by one' and can barely eat. She's not alone, an Australian dental study says

The Guardian, Other, 04/10/2024, Natasha May and Sharlotte Thou

Tara\* never thought by age 55 she would have lost all her teeth. [...] The Labor backbenchers Helen Polley, Brian Mitchell, Mike Freeland and Graham Perrett have advocated for opening up a discussion over how dental could be added to Medicare. The health minister, Mark Butler, was cool on the idea, saying in September "that's not something we're going to be able to do in the near term".

[Read More](#)

### WA joins Tassie in moving to override national vaping laws

Oncology Republic, Other, 03/10/2024, Laura Woodrow

With the Commonwealth's vaping reforms coming into full effect earlier this week, Western Australia's health minister says the state is following in Tasmania's footsteps and drafting regulation to ban the sale of over-the-counter vapes at pharmacies. [...] "I support the fact that the minister [Mark Butler] found a way to introduce a package of laws that, overall, is tough on vaping."

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER WELLS

### Boost to aged care

Tweed Valley Weekly, General News, 03/10/2024, Jonathon Howard, Page 22

The federal government's announcement of a \$900 million investment to enhance aged care services in rural and remote areas is designed to ensure older Australians, regardless of their postcode, can access the highest quality and safest aged care they deserve. Federal Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said access to aged care is a "fundamental right" for every older person in Australia, regardless of where they live or the type of care they need.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### Latest data on care-minute shortfalls, minister and sector respond

Aged Care Insite, Other, 03/10/2024, Stefanie Schultz

[...] Recent sector data submitted to the Department of Health and Aged Care showed that care minute

compliance is disproportionately low amongst metro providers, which is contradictory to data that says rural and remote areas are suffering greater with workforce shortages. [...] In an open letter to the sector, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells expressed the government's disappointment at the findings, saying, in no uncertain terms, that there is an expectation that providers will spend government funding on meeting mandatory care minute targets.

[Read More](#)

## Concerns that aged care homes are falling short on care targets

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 03/10/2024, Deborah Jackson

[...] In an open letter to aged care providers, the Hon Anika Wells, Minister for Aged Care, echoed these sentiments, stating that "the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety found that staffing levels are vital to the quality of care for older people living in residential aged care homes." [...] Data from the Department of Health and Aged Care also revealed that compliance rates are disproportionately low in metropolitan areas, even though workforce constraints are generally greater in regional, rural, and remote areas.

[Read More](#)

## Aged Care Minister's stark warning to operators

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/10/2024, Lauren Broomham

[...] Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, issued a letter to residential aged care providers on Tuesday noting her 'disappointment' with the failure of some operators, mainly For Profits, to meet care minute requirements despite increased funding over the past two years. [...] The Minister does point in her letter to the development of "options to boost care minutes compliance" for homes in thin markets perhaps a reference to the Department of Health and Aged Care's new virtual nursing pilot for homes struggling to meet 24/7 nursing requirements.

[Read More](#)

## IRT submits DA for Marco Polo Unanderra Aged Care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 03/10/2024, Deborah Jackson

IRT has taken a significant step towards renovating and refurbishing the Marco Polo Unanderra Aged Care Centre with the submission of a Development Application (DA) this week. The initiative is bolstered by a \$15.8 million grant from the Commonwealth's Aged Care Capital Assistance Program, announced by Minister for Aged Care and Sport, the Hon Anika Wells MP, on 5 September.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### Women risking pregnancy over online fad, experts warn

Herald Sun, Other, 03/10/2024, Sarah Booth

Wellness social media fads have popularised "alternative" and ineffective methods to avoid pregnancy – from a natural weed killer to fruit seeds – among young women, experts warn. [...] Federal assistant health minister Ged Kearney, who met with the group on Thursday to release the report, said bias against women in the health system was "deeply entrenched" and the government was "taking women's health seriously".

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Aussie women say they're not educated on contraception

Canberra Times, Other, 03/10/2024, Holly Hales

The vast majority of Australian women fear they have insufficient education on contraception despite more than two thirds opting to use some form of birth control. The fresh insight has been released by Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney in the new national Contraceptive Choice 2024 survey.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Seven in ten Australian women say they have insufficient education on contraception

Women's Agenda, Other, 03/10/2024, Madeline Hislop

Seven in ten Australian women say they have insufficient education on contraception, while 32 per cent of young women say they regularly experience anxiety about their current contraceptive method. These figures come from a new national survey on contraception released on Thursday by Assistant Minister for Health, Ged Kearney.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

### Two more medicos

Border Watch, General News, 04/10/2024, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

Two new general practitioners will be welcomed to the Mount Gambier Medicare Urgent Care Clinic. It comes following the clinic struggling to keep its doors open for its expected hours, often closing early or even for the day. [...] The federal Department of Health and Aged Care was aware of a "small number" of temporary closures since opening, however Health Minister Mark Butler said the clinic had been a "great success".

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### Improving rural cancer care

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 04/10/2024, Judy Baulch, Page 18

Research from Deakin University, in partnership with Cancer Council Australia, is aiming to reduce inequities in cancer care delivery across Australia. [...] An expert in health services and oncology research, Assoc Prof Ugalde leads the Institute's Equitable Cancer Outcomes across Rural and Remote Australia (ECORRA) research group which, in partnership with Cancer Council Australia, has been awarded a \$495,000 grant through the Cancer Patient Support Program funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### Political hopefuls tackle big issues

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 04/10/2024, Chloe Grimshaw, Page 13

[...] Tim Nixon. Age: 45. Party: Legalise Cannabis Queensland. Political experience: I gave evidence to a parliamentary inquiry in 2016 looking at the personal and community impacts of the legalisation of cannabis in Australia, which gave me the opportunity to criticise the federal health department directly and publicly about their anti-harm reduction stance on cannabis.

## Latest data on care-minute shortfalls, minister and sector respond

Aged Care Insite, Other, 03/10/2024, Stefanie Schultz

[...] Recent sector data submitted to the Department of Health and Aged Care showed that care minute compliance is disproportionately low amongst metro providers, which is contradictory to data that says rural and remote areas are suffering greater with workforce shortages. [...] In an open letter to the sector, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells expressed the government's disappointment at the findings, saying, in no uncertain terms, that there is an expectation that providers will spend government funding on meeting mandatory care minute targets.

[Read More](#)

## Concerns that aged care homes are falling short on care targets

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 03/10/2024, Deborah Jackson

[...] In an open letter to aged care providers, the Hon Anika Wells, Minister for Aged Care, echoed these sentiments, stating that "the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety found that staffing levels are vital to the quality of care for older people living in residential aged care homes." [...] Data from the Department of Health and Aged Care also revealed that compliance rates are disproportionately low in metropolitan areas, even though workforce constraints are generally greater in regional, rural, and remote areas.

[Read More](#)

## Aged Care Minister's stark warning to operators

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/10/2024, Lauren Broomham

[...] Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, issued a letter to residential aged care providers on Tuesday noting her 'disappointment' with the failure of some operators, mainly For Profits, to meet care minute requirements despite increased funding over the past two years. [...] The Minister does point in her letter to the development of "options to boost care minutes compliance" for homes in thin markets perhaps a reference to the Department of Health and Aged Care's new virtual nursing pilot for homes struggling to meet 24/7 nursing requirements.

[Read More](#)

## One in five residential aged care homes non-compliant yet look at their Star Ratings

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/10/2024, Caroline Egan

Nearly 20% of aged care homes failed to comply with the Aged Care Quality standards in the June quarter 2024, according to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, a figure starkly at odds with the fact 95% of residential aged care homes are rated three stars or higher for compliance, state the Department of Health and Aged Care.

[Read More](#)

## 17% home care care management fees in Q3FY24 far exceed 10% cap under proposed reforms

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/10/2024, Caroline Egan

According to the Department of Health and Aged Care's Quarterly Financial Snapshot for Quarter 3 2023-24, the median care management fee for Home Care Packages was 17% per Package, below the 20% cap that came into effect on 1 January 2023, but well above the cap proposed under the Federal Government's proposed aged care reforms.

[Read More](#)

## Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner's \$500,000-plus job advertised

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/10/2024, Caroline Egan

The incumbent Janet Anderson PSM stepped into the role in January 2019 after a 20-year career in health and aged care policy, strategy and planning. She was appointed to oversee the establishment of the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) which combined the roles of the Aged Care

Complaints Commissioner and the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency and, later, the Department of Health's aged care compliance responsibilities.

[Read More](#)

## Health assessment overhaul next on reform agenda

The Medical Republic, Other, 03/10/2024, Holly Payne

As if simultaneous incoming changes to GP management plans, WIP and PIP incentives weren't enough of a shake-up, the Department of Health and Aged Care is now eyeing reforms to the 11 health assessment items on the MBS. The proposed changes – which are still in the consultation phase – were spurred by a 2023 Bond University review which found little published evidence to demonstrate the impact of general, broad-based health assessments on patient outcomes.

[Read More](#)

## ABC New England North West, Breakfast, 03/10/2024, Kristy Reading

Interview with National Rural Health Commissioner and Tamworth GP Dr Jenny May about her first four weeks in the role and her plans for the future.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## VACCINES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Fears aged-care targets being missed

Canberra Times, General News, 04/10/2024, Andrew Brown, Page 6

Mandatory aged-care standards are slipping at some facilities, with peak bodies worried the needs of elderly people are not being met. New federal government data shows just 40 per cent of aged-care providers met mandatory targets for total minutes of care for residents and for care given by registered nurses in the three months ending in June.

*Also reported by:* [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### More improvements needed in the sector

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 03/10/2024, Jodie Wolf

The Sector Performance Report for the April to June 2024 quarter has been released by The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission. The report shows evidence of adjustments needed in the quality and safety of aged care and highlights areas of underperformance by providers.

[Read More](#)

## Home care compliance “unacceptably low”: Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/10/2024, Caroline Egan

More than one in three home care services failed to meet all 42 Aged Care Quality Standards during the period, with compliance flatlining over a 12-month period, according to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's (ACQSC) Sector Performance Report for the June 2024 quarter.

[Read More](#)

## Inspector-General: aged care reforms do not meet Royal Commission's expectations

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/10/2024, Caroline Egan

In its submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Aged Care Bill 2024, the Office of the Inspector-General of Aged Care (OIGAC), which is led by Acting Inspector-General and former COTA Chief Executive Ian Yates AM, has restated its position that Australia should be moving towards a needs-based, demand-driven aged care system, as recommended by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

[Read More](#)

## Providers want compensation for “enormous” HR burden meeting increased care minute mandate

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/10/2024, Caroline Egan

Every aged care provider in the nation has faced the challenges of recruiting additional staff in recent months as the mandate for direct care minutes increased 7.5% to 215 care minutes, a reform that came into effect this week on Tuesday, 1 October 2024. Russell Egan, the CEO of family-owned Superior Care Group which operates aged care homes in Brisbane and the Gold Coast, told The Weekly SOURCE the change has imposed "enormous Human Resources responsibilities" on providers.

[Read More](#)

## 6PR, Perth Live, 03/10/2024, Oliver Peterson

Interview with Council of the Ageing chief executive Patricia Sparrow regarding mandatory minutes of care.

[Play Now](#)

## Aged care reforms may not alleviate long waiting times

The Senior, Other, 03/10/2024, Andrew Brown

Older Australians will continue to languish on waiting lists to access aged care despite federal government reforms to the sector, an industry watchdog says. As a federal parliamentary committee looks into the government's multibillion-dollar package, Aged Care Inspector-General Ian Yates says there are still concerns with the overhaul.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## POPULATION HEALTH

### Habit to go up in smoke

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/10/2024, Page 17

Creating a generation of people who never smoke could prevent 1.2 million deaths from lung cancer globally, according to international researchers. The University of Otago and University of Santiago de Compostela simulation study using historical data on 82 countries, including Australia, suggests banning the purchase of cigarettes and other tobacco products among people born between 2006 and 2010 could prevent almost half (45.8 per cent) of future lung cancer deaths in men and about a third (30.9 per cent in women in 185 countries by 2095.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### Phasing out teen smoking could save 1.2 mn lives: study

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 03/10/2024

Banning the sale of tobacco to people born between 2006 and 2010 could prevent around 1.2 million deaths from lung cancer by the end of the century, said a modelling study released Thursday. Smoking

is responsible for roughly 85 percent of all cases of lung cancer, the deadliest cancer worldwide, according to the World Health Organization.

[Read More](#)

## Number of black market tobacco stores in South Australia revealed

9News, Other, 03/10/2024, Dylan Smith

South Australia is home to more than 200 illegal tobacco stores as crime gangs fight for what is becoming a lucrative market. Police have set up a taskforce to combat the trade and to stop associated crime linked to the activity, as more people turn to the growing Adelaide black market.

[Read More](#)

## Warnie's ongoing legacy

Herald Sun, General News, 04/10/2024, Mitch Clarke, Page 25

Spin king Shane Warne's remarkable legacy continues with more free heart health checks. At this year's Boxing Day Test, 52 medical-grade machines that can test a person's heart health in just four minutes will be placed around the MCG.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury\\_\(Hobart\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## Cousins deserves a fair go at redemption game

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 04/10/2024, Alice Coster, Page 47

Can you ever really do the time for the crime? When Bec Judd this week shared her support for Ben Cousins, asking social media to award the former AFL star a blue tick, the storm of criticism was not unexpected. [...] Earlier this year an Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report found 1 per cent of the population, approximately 200,000 people, had used methamphetamine, with our country among the world's highest users of the drug, per capita.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## We shouldn't weigh children at school, but we can't hide from discussing children's health

The New Daily, Other, 03/10/2024, Madonna King

A call by nurses to weigh and measure school children in a bid to combat obesity should be seen as more than a "fat shaming issue". And to dismiss it so summarily – as we have – is ignoring a heart-breaking problem that is linked to more than 30 diseases, from cancer to dementia to type 2 diabetes. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has found that it also is associated with poorer wellbeing, poorer academic performance at school, increased healthcare costs and a bigger risk of being obese in adulthood.

[Read More](#)

## Wagga groups unite to address 'damning' veteran death inquiry findings

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 03/10/2024, Andrew Mangelsdorf

Wagga groups have united to fight against "damning" findings of an inquiry into defence and veteran suicide and bolster support for future careers post-service. [...] The MoU also noted the tragic numbers of deaths by suicide among defence force members recently outlined in a report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)



## PRIMARY CARE

### Why anxious mums are a key election issue

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/10/2024, James Hall, Page 8

One of the biggest campaign issues is access to maternity services in regional and rural areas, writes James Hall.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### Health strategy on hold

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 04/10/2024, Taylah Fellows, Page 4

Despite making the "health crisis" the centrepiece of his attacks on the government for years, Opposition Leader David Crisafulli says he will wait until the government's September health data is published before releasing his own strategy to bring down ambulance ramping and elective surgery waitlists. Mr Crisafulli on Thursday said specific targets for hospital performance would then be released within 72 hours.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### Health spend all an illusion

West Australian, General News, 04/10/2024, Libby Mettam MP, Page 61

Smoke and mirrors is a game Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson has become good at since taking over the portfolio in December 2021. To sell almost eight years of chronic underspending on health infrastructure as "record investment in health", you've really got to be able to crank the smoke machine.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### Ramping woes at hospital 'as bad as ever'

Border Mail, General News, 04/10/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

A patient has been left waiting for at least five hours to get treatment at Albury hospital as ambulance ramping continues to dog the emergency department. The man's ordeal was outlined by Wodonga paramedic Russell Hamstead as he highlighted delays which unfolded on Wednesday evening.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### Two cities need one approach in push for a new hospital

Border Mail, General News, 04/10/2024, Anthony Bunn, Page 3

Albury and Wodonga councils should have a united approach in identifying potential sites for a new Twin Cities hospital. That's the view of Wodonga mayor Ron Mildren, who has outlined his plan to advance a greenfield hospital as part of his re-election bid for council.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### Hospital heart lab closing for months

Daily Mercury, General News, 04/10/2024, Page 10

A vital cardiac health care facility will shut for two months sending heart attack patients to Townsville for treatment. The Mackay Base Hospital Cardiac Catheter Laboratory will close on October 8 for about eight weeks while old equipment was replaced.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### Shoalhaven Hospital work on track

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 04/10/2024, Abi Kirkland, Page 16

Work on the \$438 million Shoalhaven Hospital redevelopment is on track to deliver improved health services to the region and support hundreds of local jobs during construction. Health Minister Ryan

Park and State Member for South Coast Liza Butler toured the site this week to check on the progress and meet members of the project team including representatives from Health Infrastructure and the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## New roads won't help hospital parking

Newcastle Herald, General News, 04/10/2024, Jamieson Murphy, Page 5

Two new roads will open at John Hunter Hospital to ease congestion in and around the health precinct, but nurses still struggle to find a car park at the state's largest regional hospital. The new internal roads will open on Thursday as part of the \$835-million John Hunter Health precinct and will improve the traffic flow at the campus.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## New health clinic

Shepparton News, General News, 04/10/2024, Georgia Tacey, Page 5

Goulburn Valley Health is set to receive a specialised women's health clinic. Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas announced all five recipients receiving a specialised women's health clinic on Wednesday, October 2 at GV Health, saying this would make it easier for all Victorian women to access essential healthcare services.

Also reported by: [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## Greens pitch 1,000 free healthcare clinics in election push targeting 'winnable' Labor seats

ABC Online, Other, 03/10/2024, Jake Evans

The Greens say healthcare costs will be a key negotiating point with Labor if it falls into minority government. The party will campaign on a plan to build 1,000 clinics with free access to doctors, dentists and psychologists.

[Read More](#)

## Balding at 19, Tom paid a Thai clinic \$11K for new hair, but the risks are irreversible

SBS, Other, 03/10/2024, Matt Gazy

As Aussie men look to countries like Thailand and Türkiye for cheaper hair transplants, some industry experts are concerned they're being targeted by unqualified operators – and could end up spending more in Australia getting bad treatments fixed up.

[Read More](#)

## Immediate dental care needed for all Victorian students - Cleeland

Shepparton News Online, Other, 03/10/2024

State Member for Euroa, Annabelle Cleeland, has stressed the need for government dental health initiatives to be extended to all Victorian students as a matter of priority. The Victorian government's Smile Squad program, offering free dental care to government school students, is facing criticism for its delayed expansion to low-fee Catholic and Independent schools.

[Read More](#)

## I have made the near-impossible choice to terminate a pregnancy. Shaming woman for it is cruel

The Guardian, Other, 03/10/2024, Ruth Milne

Last week, Liberal MP Ben Hood introduced a bill to the South Australian parliament that would require anyone seeking an abortion after 27 weeks and six days to give birth. Joanna Howe, a law professor and anti-abortion advocate, supports Hood, asserting that women "overwhelmingly" want this bill to pass.

[Read More](#)

## New health care initiative focusing on young rural children takes flight across WA

West Australian, Other, 04/10/2024, Craig Duncan

A new regional health care initiative is taking flight across WA and touching down in Mt Magnet offering children across the state free allied health assessments. A partnership between Fly2Health and Variety has launched a new trial which will see health care experts flying to rural towns across WA to provide in-person consultations to children focusing on those aged 0-6.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 03/10/2024, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

South Australia now has a sixth urgent care clinic, with the latest opening its doors at Para Hills West. Along with the state's five other sites it will relieve pressure on our emergency departments. They've already treated more than 50,000 patients since the rollout began last year.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Primary school-aged children caught in a gambling haze

Ballarat Courier, General News, 04/10/2024, Page 5

Primary school children are being treated in hospital for the effects of gambling, with experts blaming online games and betting advertising during sport. A nationwide survey of the parents of 1160 teenagers, conducted by Victoria's Royal Children's Hospital, found one in three are concerned about their child's gambling.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### Suicide crisis service launches

Daily Mercury, General News, 04/10/2024, Daneka Hill, Page 10

The Mackay Hospital and Health Service has launched a new service for people suffering from suicidal crisis, delivering timely psychosocial support in the region. Northern Queensland Primary Health Network, in partnership with Mackay HHS, has selected Wellways as the provider of the universal aftercare service for the Greater Mackay region, including rural and remote areas.

Also reported by: [Daily Mercury News \(Online\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### Postnatal depression forced Isabel to confront her mental health. She wants others to know they're not alone

7news.com.au, Other, 03/10/2024, Ailish Delaney

For as long as she can remember, Isabel wanted to be a mother. "When I was growing up, I didn't know if I was going to get married, I didn't know a lot of things, but I knew I would be a mother at some point," she told 7NEWS.com.au.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Strikes pause in return for a pay rise

Daily Advertiser, General News, 04/10/2024, Emily Anderson, Page 2

Tired of striking Wagga nurses welcome a month of calm, but will "absolutely not" be holding back from industrial action if tabletop discussions with the government don't go their way. In return for agreeing not to strike for four weeks, public sector nurses will receive a three per cent pay rise, as the government and their union have agreed to sit down at the negotiating table.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#)

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Eye drug listed

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 03/10/2024

Eylea (afibercept) 8mg is added to the PBS for treating wet age-related macular degeneration (wAMD) and diabetic macular oedema (DMO). The new formulation, containing four times the molar dose of the original, reduces injection frequency without compromising safety or effectiveness.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Insurer Bupa offers free doctor consults

The Australian, Business News, 04/10/2024, Anthony Keane, Page 15

Millions of Australians with health insurance are being urged to check their policy inclusions as intense competition in the sector delivers small financial windfalls to many members. Despite the cost-of-living crunch, private health member numbers and profits are growing as the insurance moves from being a simple emergency fund for hospital treatment into preventive medicine such as health checks and other consultations.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#)

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

SPORT

## Boost for NQ athletes

Courier Mail, General News, 04/10/2024, Samuel Davis, Page 1

Far North Queensland's most promising young sporting talents will receive a major boost, with Tourism and Sport Minister Michael Healy today set to announce \$15m to help build the first stage of a Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS) high performance centre in Cairns. An additional \$10m has been promised by the North Queensland Cowboys (who will run the facility) as part of plans to relocate their NRLW team to Cairns.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## Legend wants new stadium

Courier Mail, General News, 04/10/2024, Robert Craddock, Page 20

Athletics great Raelene Boyle believes Brisbane's Olympic dithering has become embarrassing and the plan to renovate the track where she was once queen must be abandoned. The sprint legend won Olympic silver medals in Mexico City (1968) and Munich (1972) but she is also defined by the gold medal she won in her career swan song in the 400m at the 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games at QEII Stadium.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## Mac Point stadium hits sour note for TSO

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/10/2024, David Killick, Page 7

The proposed Macquarie Point stadium is being built in "a terrible location" which would compromise the Federation Concert Hall and should be shifted elsewhere, the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra says. Joining the Tasmanian Returned and Services League on Thursday to launch plans for a vigil at the Hobart Cenotaph, TSO chief executive Caroline Sharpen said noise impacts from the stadium's construction and operation had not been properly taken into account.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## FNQ's sporting chance

Cairns Post, General News, 04/10/2024, Arun Singh Mann, Page 3

The Far North's arm wrestle against capital cities to breed and maintain sporting talent has received a boost with a new program helping establish grassroots pathways. The federal government's Play Our Way program offered \$200m to community organisations for local initiatives and ideas to address participation barriers faced by women and girls, and \$2.6m has been allocated to Leichhardt electorate with a focus on the Cape region.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### First dementia drug on trial

Herald Sun, General News, 04/10/2024, Sarah Booth, Page 6

The world first's treatment for a cruel and deadly form of dementia that is more common in young people may be sitting in a Melbourne laboratory. Frontotemporal dementia (FTD) hit headlines after actor Bruce Willis revealed his diagnosis, but the incurable, neurodegenerative disease, which can hit as early as 35, has often been underdiagnosed.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### Health prevention programs set for \$5m check up

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 03/10/2024

The University of Newcastle will lead a national research program aiming to transform Australia's health prevention system and reduce the chronic disease burden. Awarded a \$5 million National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grant, the major project will focus on synergising existing

efforts to prevent chronic disease in Australia – and in doing so seek to overcome the average 15 to 17-year lag it takes for health systems to adopt proven chronic disease interventions.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Midwifery-led birth centre for Aboriginal women on Nowra site

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 04/10/2024, Page 3

Anticipation is growing for the Gudjaga Gunyahlamai Birth Centre, Australia's first Aboriginal-owned and midwifery-led free-standing birth centre. South Coast Women's Health and Wellbeing Aboriginal Corporation (Waminda) leaders were joined by Federal Member for Gilmore Fiona Phillips, NSW Health Minister Ryan Park and Member for South Coast Liza Butler this week, visiting the greenfield site in Hillcrest Avenue, Nowra, where the centre is to be built.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### NSW Health offers free mpox vaccines amid alarming outbreak

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04/10/2024, Kate Aubusson, Page 15

NSW is in the midst of the biggest monkeypox outbreak since the first case was confirmed in 2022, with 433 cases reported since June 1 and people hospitalised for their severe symptoms. NSW Health is urging men who have sex with men, sex workers and their sexual partners to get two free doses of mpox vaccine now to protect them from serious illness.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### NSW Health urges people at risk of mpox to get vaccinated

NEWS.com.au, Other, 03/10/2024, Aisling Brennan

Australians at risk of contracting mpox are being urged to get up to date on their vaccinations as New South Wales faces its largest outbreak of the illness in years. NSW Health has received 433 notifications of mpox since June 1, making it the largest mpox outbreak in the state since the first case was confirmed in May 2022.

Similar coverage: [9News \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

### ABC, ABC News, 03/10/2024, Jeremy Fernandez

Health officials are urging gay and bisexual men to get vaccinated after a significant surge in mpox infections. NSW is experiencing its largest mpox outbreak. Case numbers have soared from 90 to 433 in just three months. Two doses of the vaccine are required for a person to be considered fully immunised. Health data shows nearly half of all people infected were not vaccinated at all. The state's chief health officer says 26 people have been taken to hospital.

[Play Now](#)

### Channel 7, Seven News, 03/10/2024, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

An urgent health warning tonight. Australians at risk of contracting mpox are being offered two free doses of the vaccine as cases surge. NSW is facing its largest outbreak to date, recording 433 infections since June. Symptoms of the disease, formerly known as monkeypox, include a fever, headaches and fatigue.

[Play Now](#)

NSW has recorded its largest outbreak of mpox with more than 400 cases reported since June. The spike has prompted authorities to put out an urgent reminder for those at risk to get vaccinated.

[Play Now](#)

## Could your mobile phone be carrying Australia's next biosecurity risk?

NEWS.com.au, Other, 03/10/2024, Lotti Tajouri

A groundbreaking Aussie experiment has uncovered a truly horrifying danger lurking in our mobile phones that nobody can ignore.

[Read More](#)

## What pathogen might spark the next pandemic? How scientists are preparing for 'disease X'

Medicine Today, Other, 03/10/2024, Allen Cheng

Before the COVID pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) had made a list of priority infectious diseases. These were felt to pose a threat to international public health, but where research was still needed to improve their surveillance and diagnosis. In 2018, "disease X" was included, which signified that a pathogen previously not on our radar could cause a pandemic.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Zantac back on the market

Medical Forum, Other, 03/10/2024

Two forms of the anti-reflux drug Zantac are back on the Australian market, five years after being pulled off because of safety concerns. The medication's sponsor, Aspen Pharmacare Australia, has been working with the Therapeutic Goods Administration to ensure it met the requirements for safety and efficacy for inclusion on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### More injecting rooms needed as overdose deaths persist

Ballarat Courier, General News, 04/10/2024, William Ton, Page 9

More medically supervised injecting rooms are needed across Melbourne, advocates say, as figures reveal overdose deaths remain at near-record highs. In 2023, 547 Victorians fatally overdosed - three fewer than the state's deadliest year on record in 2022 - according to an annual report released yesterday by the Coroners Court of Victoria.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

### Popular snack product recalled over allergen concerns

NEWS.com.au, Other, 03/10/2024, Clareese Packer

A popular snack product has been recalled over an undeclared allergen. The Nocelle Foods Nature's Delight 400g Ranger Mix has been recalled. The product contains the undeclared allergen of peanuts. "Any consumers who have a cashew allergy or intolerance may have a reaction if the product is consumed," the Food Standards Australia and New Zealand recall states.

Similar coverage: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## World's first coconut-based baby formula to be launched in Australia as expert issues stern warning to parents

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 03/10/2024, Ashley Nickel

The world's first coconut-based baby formula will launch this week but some professionals have urged parents to consult their GP before making the switch. Ingrid Roche, an accredited paediatric allergy dietitian, warned parents to consider their little one's health before buying Coco2 when it launches on Friday.

[Read More](#)

## Students hospitalised after eating 'mushroom gummies' at school

7news.com.au, Other, 03/10/2024, Molly Magennis

Two students have been taken to hospital after ingesting "mushroom gummies" at a school on the Gold Coast. Paramedics were called to Palm Beach Currumbin State High School where two teenagers became ill after eating the gummies. [...] While the Queensland Department of Education could not confirm which gummies the students ate, the Courier Mail reported it was the Uncle Frog's Mushroom Gummies recalled by Australia's food safety watchdog back in June.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 03/10/2024, Max Futchner

Gold Coast paramedics have issued an urgent warning after two teenagers were hospitalised after eating mushroom gummies. [...] It's understood they had ingested Uncle Frog's Mushroom Gummies, which Food Standards Australia issued a national recall for five months ago.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## AICIS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.

See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

